[10191/2121]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s)	:	Winfried KOENIG
Serial No.	:	To Be Assigned
Filed	:	Herewith
For	:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACOUSTICAL FUNCTION CONTROL IN A MOTOR VEHICLE
Examiner	:	To Be Assigned
Art Unit	:	To Be Assigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
37 C.F.R. § 1.125 SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION STATEMENT

S I R:

Kindly amend the above-captioned application before examination, as set forth below.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 2 as shown in red ink in the Letter to Official Draftsperson attached hereto.

IN THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), a Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without claims) accompanies this response. It is respectfully requested that the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) be entered to replace the Specification of record.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On the first page of the claims, first line, change "What is claimed is:" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1 to 16 in the underlying PCT application.

Please add the following new claims:

--17. (New) A method for acoustical function control in a motor vehicle using a speech input system configured to receive a spoken command and to convert the spoken command into corresponding control signals, comprising the steps of:

activating the system by manually actuating an operating element; and

outputting to an operating person an indication of readiness of the system to receive a voice command by mechanically deflecting from a preestablished position of one of the operating element and a part thereof, so as to directly influence a tactile sense of an operating hand of the operating person.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the deflection is automatically one of ceased and reset, if a readiness condition of the speech input system no longer exists after activation.

19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the readiness indication includes a static shape change of one of the operating element and a part thereof.

20. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the readiness indication includes a position change of one of the operating element and a part thereof.

21. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the readiness indication includes a vibration of one of the operating element and a part thereof.

22. (New) A control system for acoustical function control in a motor vehicle using a speech input system configured to receive a spoken command and to convert the spoken command into corresponding control signals, comprising:

an operating element configured for manual actuation by an operating person to activate the system; and

a display device configured to indicate to the operating person, upon the activation of the speech input system, a readiness of the system to receive voice commands, the display device including an arrangement configured to mechanically deflect one of the operating element and a part thereof, the deflection arrangement

operatively connected to the speech input system, the deflection arrangement configured to be driven by the speech input system and to communicate a readiness condition to an operating hand of the operating person in a direct, tactile manner when the readiness of the system occurs.

23. (New) The control system according to claim 22, further comprising an arrangement configured to reset the deflection arrangement immediately after an end of the readiness condition and to act upon the display device.

24. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the operating element includes one of a switch and a key on a steering wheel.

25. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the deflection arrangement includes a retaining arrangement configured to statically hold in an engaged state a switching organ of the operating element during the readiness condition, the switching organ configured to be engaged by a finger of the operating person to activate the speech input system.

26. (New) The control system according to claim 25, wherein the switching organ includes one of a key and a switch sliding head.

27. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the deflection arrangement includes, as a retaining element, an electromagnet configured to act upon the operating element in one of a force- and a form-locking manner.

28. (New) The control system according to claim 27, wherein the operating element includes one of a key and a switch organ.

29. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the deflection arrangement includes an arrangement configured to cause a vibration of the operating element during the readiness condition of the speech input system.

30. (New) The control system according to claim 29, wherein the operating element includes one of a key, a switch sliding head of the key and a switch installed

on a steering wheel, the vibration arrangement configured to cause vibration of the one of the key, the switch sliding head of the key and the switch installed on the steering wheel.

31. (New) A combined operating/indicator element for use in a control system for acoustical function control in a motor vehicle, comprising:

a control block; and

a deflection arrangement operatively connected to the control block, the deflection arrangement configured to maintain one of the element and a part thereof in one of a mechanically deflected and form-changed state after the element has been activated manually by a hand of an operating person to activate the control system, the state detectable by the same hand of the operating person to signal a readiness condition.

32. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 31, wherein the element includes one of a key and a switch installable on a steering wheel of the motor vehicle.

33. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 32, wherein the deflection arrangement is configured to act in response to the readiness condition upon one of a key, a switch sliding head of the key and a switch to retract the one of the key, the switch sliding head of the key and the switch into a housing of the element and maintain this retracted position during the readiness condition.

34. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 33, wherein the deflection arrangement includes an electromagnet.

35. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 32, wherein the deflection arrangement includes an arrangement configured to cause at least one of a key, a switch, a switch sliding head of the key and a switch sliding head of the switch to vibrate during the readiness condition.

36. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 31, wherein the control system is configured for acoustical function control in the motor vehicle using

a speech input system configured to receive a spoken command and to convert the spoken command into corresponding control signals, the control system including:

an operating element configured for manual actuation by an operating person to activate the system; and

a display device configured to indicate to the operating person, upon the activation of the speech input system, the readiness condition of the system to receive voice commands, the display device including an arrangement configured to mechanically deflect one of the element and a part thereof, the deflection arrangement operatively connected to the speech input system, the deflection arrangement configured to be driven by the speech input system and to communicate the readiness condition to an operating hand of the operating person in a direct, tactile manner when the readiness of the system occurs.--.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1 to 16 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE01/01772. This Preliminary Amendment adds new claims 17 to 36. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and does not add any new matter to the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)(3)(iii) and 1.125(b)(2), a Marked Up Version of the Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE01/01772 includes an International Search Report, dated September 20, 2001, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: MARCH 29, 2002

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